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NEW YORK, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND
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E - 57,308
S - 51,993

MAY 6 1966

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Ex-Diplomat Scores U.S. Foreign Policy

By ROBERT FOSTER

Phelps Phelps, a former Staten Islander whose fiery political career ranged from a 10-year seat in the New York State Legislature to a governor's house in American Samoa and a short stint as ambassador to the Dominican Republic during the 1950s, spent more than an hour last night explaining to the Wagner College International Relations Club why he thought the United States doesn't have any international relations.

Now in his late 60s and all but completely retired from political life, Phelps sat back in a plush chair in a lounge on the Grymes Hill campus, threw body into his booming voice, and stated:

"Our foreign relations program was taken from England's Victorian era and the only improvement we made was to change the pink tea to the cocktail."

Saying that the American embassies are staffed with "school-boys," Phelps followed with an attack on the information-relaying structures of such agencies and said no one in the diplomatic service encourages an original thought or a courageous action.

That, he said, is why "78 Communists in the Dominican Republic can throw the country into turmoil."

Phelps said President John-

son receives his news from the State Department which in turn receives weekly reports from embassy attaches. These reports, he said, are full of statements and statistics, "but no analysis of events."

Phelps, who was Dominican ambassador during Trujillo's dictatorship, said that at the height of that country's recent revolution "President Johnson had to send the FBI to find out what the CIA was supposed to find out — which is what the embassy should have known." Since the April 14 revolution in the Dominican Re-

public, he said. The United States has spent more than \$100 million there and "no one seems to know where it went."

Phelps said he is aware that a great deal of money must be spent for any large foreign project, but he suggested that much of these expenditures are usually lost to the black market.

Phelps, who was a news commentator for WMCA, said a fortune was and is being spent on "Voice of America" radio and pamphlet projects, "while the average man in Asia doesn't own a radio or is able to read."

A former candidate for congressional nomination from Staten Island and a former vice commander of the Richmond County American Legion, he offered that the United States could improve its image

abroad, "which is now at the flag-burning stage," by an escalated education and student exchange program.

Phelps is currently a member of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and a delegate to the New Jersey constitutional convention.